

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method in a suction device which has a body and an associated end part with an open distal end directed away from the body for removably attaching a tip enclosing a sample space for receiving a liquid sample, the end part of the suction device enclosing a cylinder space containing a plunger, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a barrier in an opening in the end part of the suction device,  
the barrier preventing liquid from passing into the cylinder space;

changing the volume of the cylinder space for receiving a sample into and removing a sample from the tip, the volume of the cylinder space being changed with the plunger;

~~providing a barrier in an opening in the end part of the suction device,~~  
~~the barrier preventing liquid from passing into the cylinder space;~~

detaching the barrier from the end part of the suction device by moving the plunger first in a direction of the opening in the end part of the suction device into contact with the barrier and then by moving the plunger in the direction of the opening for removing the barrier from the end part of the suction device.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, comprising the step of limiting movement of the plunger in the cylindrical space, the plunger being movable at least to a position in which the plunger can contact the barrier at the end part of the suction device for detaching the barrier from the end part of the suction device.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, comprising the step of removing the tip from the end part of the suction device with an element engagable by the plunger.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein the suction device is ~~multichannel~~ multichanneled.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein the suction device ~~comprises~~ is a mechanical pipette.

16. (Currently Amended) A method in a suction device which has a body and an associated end part with an open distal end directed away from the body for removably attaching a tip enclosing a sample space for receiving a liquid sample, the end part of the suction device enclosing a cylinder space containing a plunger, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a barrier in an opening in the end part of the suction device,  
the barrier preventing liquid from passing into the cylinder space;

changing the volume of the cylinder space for receiving a sample into and removing a sample from the tip, the volume of the cylinder space being changed with the plunger;

~~providing a barrier in an opening in the end part of the suction device,~~  
~~the barrier preventing liquid from passing into the cylinder space;~~

detaching the barrier from the end part of the suction device by moving a telescopic extension of the plunger first in a direction of the opening in the end part of the suction device into contact with the barrier and then by moving the telescopic extension of the plunger in the direction of the opening for removing the barrier from the end part of the suction device.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, comprising the step of limiting movement of the plunger in the cylindrical space, the plunger being movable at least to a position in which the telescopic extension of the plunger can contact the barrier at the end part of the suction device for detaching the barrier from the end part of the suction device.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, comprising the step of removing the tip from the end part of the suction device with an element engagable by the plunger.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein the suction device is ~~multichannel~~ multichanneled.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein the suction device ~~comprises~~ is a mechanical pipette.

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Reply to Office Action of January 20, 2004  
Art Unit: 1743

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**IN THE DRAWINGS:**

Attached hereto is one (1) sheet of correct formal drawings that comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The corrected formal drawings incorporate the following drawing changes:

Fig. 2 is added to the application.

It is respectfully requested that the corrected formal drawing be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.